Inauguration of metre gauge railway lines in Arunachal Pradesh

1316. SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he inaugurated two metre-gauge railway lines on January 3-4, 1990 namely (i) in Gamani Bhalukpong in Arunachal Pradesh; (ii) Penchartal-Kumarghat in Tripura;

(b) if so, at what cost the two lines have been laid; and

(c) what other railway lines extension and replacements are contemplated to be undertaken during the ensuing year?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Penchartal-Kumarghat section of the Dharmanagar-Kumarghat MG line and Gamani-Bhalukpong section of Balipara-Bhalukpong MG line were inaugurated on 4-1-90 and 15-1-90 respectively.

(b) The estimated cost of Dharmanagar-Kumarghat line is Rs. 43.93 crores and that of Balipara-Bhalukpong line is Rs. 14.18 crores.

(c) Details of the on-going railway line projects, contemplated to be undertaken during the ensuing year have been included in the Works, Machinery and Rolling Stock Programmes of Railways for 1990-91 part II which forms part of the Budget Documents circulated to Members of Parliament.

Free supply of water and electricity to the Council of Ministers

1317. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Members of the Council of Ministers are entitled for free water and electricity services without any limit;

(b) the amounts paid for each of the year 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89 in respect of each service, Ministerwise; and

(c) the monthly average of the above, during each of the above year, Ministerwise?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Postponement of the electrification of Jolarpet-Bangalore railway section

1318. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work of electrification of Jolarpet-Bangalore Railway section which was already approved was postponed.

(b) by when this project is likely to be taken up; and

(c) by what time it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Electrification works are already in progress.

(c) 1992-93.

Revision in freight charges on coal

1319. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have revised the freight charges on the coal supplied to Raichur Thermal Plant in Karnataka;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this revision; and

(c) whether Karnataka Government has objected to this revision, if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Due to increase in demand of coal for Raichur Thermal Power Station additional coal linkage has to be provided from Bhadrachalam Branch line area of

Singareni Coalfields. The shortest route for this movement *via* Kazipet-Wadi being saturated, this coal has to be moved *via* Vijayawada-Renigunta rationalised longer route and freight charges are levied accordingly.

(c) The reasons for moving this coal by the longer route have been explained to the Government of Karnataka.

Modernisation of Government of India Press, Minto Road

1320. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of employees in the Government of India Press, Minto Road are facing the threat of retrenchment in view of the proposed modernisation of the Press;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard including the policy regarding retrenchment of employees; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Press authorities have been rejecting genuine requests of families of employees, who expired during the last three years for providing employment on compassionate grounds to atleast one member of each family in distress on the ground of proposed modernisation of the press in contravention of the declared policy of Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) On account of shrinkage in the staff strength in the wake of modernisation and consequent non-availability of vacancy, no new staff is being inducted in the press.

Import of Foodgrains

1321. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import foodgrains during this year; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b). During 1989-90, while there was no import of wheat, a quantity of 5.24 lakh tonnes of rice has been imported against contracts signed during July to September, 1989—1.04 lakh tonnes from Thailand and 4.20 lakh tonnes from Vietnam. The Government have also accepted the proposal of the Government of Vietnam to repay about 44,980 tonnes of rice against the Food Loan of 1980, which is likely to be received during 1990-91. Besides this, there is at present no decision to import wheat and rice from any where.

Recommendations of the Minorities Commission to avert communal clashes in the country

1322. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the recommendations of the Minorities Commission in regard to avert communal clashes in the country; and

(b) what action has been taken on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) To avert communal clashes the Minorities Commission have made their recommendations in their Annual Reports and other forums like the Conference of Chairmen/Members of the Central and State Minorities Commissions/Boards etc. They relate mainly to the more effective implementation of the provisions under the relevant laws like the Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act etc. The Commission have also recommended a number of steps to be taken by the local authorities and the State Governments in order to improve the communal situation.

The prevention of communal clashes being an important part of the maintenance of "law and order", is basically a State subject. The Central Government